

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic camera having a multi-shooting mode in which data of a single composite image is generated by arranging and compositing data of a predetermined number of images generated by continuous shooting, comprising:

a release switch for instructing execution of a shooting operation;

an image pickup part that performs the continuous shooting according to an operation to said release switch to generate data of a plurality of images in said multi-shooting mode;

an extraction processing part that changes an extracting rate according to the number of images generated by said image pickup part, and extracts the data of the predetermined number of images from the data of the plurality of images according to the changed extracting rate; and

an image composition part that arranges and composites the data of the predetermined number of images extracted by said extraction processing part to generate the data of the single composite image.

2. The electronic camera according to Claim 1, wherein said extraction processing part performs the extraction at such intervals that intervals at which images in extracted data have been shot become substantially uniform.

3. An electronic camera having a multi-shooting mode in which data of a single composite image is generated by arranging and compositing data of a predetermined number of images generated by continuous shooting, comprising:

a release switch for instructing execution of a shooting operation;

an image pickup part that performs the continuous shooting according to an operation to said release switch to generate data of a plurality of images in said

multi-shooting mode;

a variation calculating part that calculates a difference between frame images in the data of the images generated by said image pickup part, the difference representing an amount of variation in an object;

5 an extraction processing part that extracts data of the predetermined number of images from the data of the plurality of images at such intervals that the smaller the difference between the frames images, the longer the intervals; and

an image composition part that arranges and composites the data of the predetermined number of images extracted by said extraction processing part to generate
10 the data of the single composite image.

4. The electronic camera according to Claim 3, wherein said extraction processing part extracts the data of the predetermined number of images in ascending order of the calculated differences.

5. An electronic camera having a multi-shooting mode in which data of a single
15 composite image is generated by arranging and compositing data of a predetermined number of images generated by continuous shooting, comprising:

a release switch for instructing execution of a shooting operation;

an image pickup part that performs the continuous shooting according to an operation to said release switch to generate data of a plurality of images in said
20 multi-shooting mode;

a variation calculating part that selects the data of the predetermined number or more of images from the data of the plurality of images according to the number of images generated by said image pickup part, and calculates a difference between frame images in the selected data, the difference representing an amount of variation in an object;

25 an extraction processing part that extracts the data of the predetermined number

of images from the data of the plurality of images at such intervals that the smaller the difference between the frame images, the longer the intervals; and

an image composition part that arranges and composites the data of the predetermined number of images extracted by said extraction processing part to generate the data of the single composite image.

6. An electronic camera having a multi-shooting mode in which data of a single composite image is generated by extracting data of a predetermined number of images from data of a plurality of images generated by continuous shooting, and by compositing the extracted data of the images, comprising:

a release switch for instructing execution of a shooting operation;

an image pickup part that performs the continuous shooting according to an operation to said release switch to generate data of the plurality of images in said multi-shooting mode;

an extraction processing part that extracts the data of the predetermined number of images from the data of the plurality of images in said multi-shooting mode at such intervals that an Nth frame image data to be extracted is generated by shooting at a time of an Xth power of (N-1) where X is more than zero when a first frame image data to be extracted is assumed to be generated by shooting at a time zero; and

an image composition part that arranges and composites data of the predetermined number of images extracted by said extraction processing part to generate the data of the single composite image.

7. An electronic camera having a multi-shooting mode in which data of a single composite image is generated by arranging and compositing data of a predetermined number of images generated by continuous shooting, comprising:

a release switch for instructing start and end of the continuous shooting in said

multi-shooting mode;

an image pickup part that performs the continuous shooting according to an operation to said release switch to generate data of a plurality of images in said multi-shooting mode;

5 an extraction processing part that extracts data of the predetermined number of images from the data of a plurality of images in said multi-shooting mode in such a manner that the data extracted includes data of images shot at the start and end of the continuous shooting; and

an image composition part that arranges and composites the data of the
10 predetermined number of images extracted by said extraction processing part to generate the data of the single composite image.

8. The electronic camera according to Claim 7, wherein the extraction processing part changes an extracting rate according to the number of images generated by said image pickup part and extracts the data of the predetermined number of images from the
15 generated data of the images according to the changed extracting rate.

9. The electronic camera according to claim 7, further comprising a variation calculating part that calculates a difference between frame images of the generated data of the images, the difference representing an amount of variation in an object, wherein

said extraction processing part extracts the data of the predetermined number of
20 images from the data of the plurality of images at such intervals that the smaller the difference between the frame images, the longer the intervals.

10. A method for generating data of a single composite image by arranging and compositing data of a predetermined number of images generated by continuous shooting, comprising the steps of:

25 generating data of a plurality of images by continuous shooting;

changing an extracting rate according to the number of images generated and extracting the data of the predetermined number of images from the generated data of the images according to the changed extracting rate; and

generating the data of the single composite image by arranging and compositing
5 the extracted data of the images.

11. A method for generating data of a single composite image by arranging and compositing data of a predetermined number of images generated by continuous shooting, comprising the steps of:

generating data of a plurality of images by continuous shooting;

10 calculating a difference between frame images in the generated data, the difference representing an amount of variation in an object;

extracting the data of the predetermined number of images from the generated data of the images at such intervals that the smaller the difference between the frame images, the longer the intervals; and

15 generating the data of the single composite image by arranging and compositing the extracted data.

12. A method for generating data of a single composite image by arranging and compositing data of a predetermined number of images generated by continuous shooting, comprising the steps of:

20 generating data of a plurality of images by continuous shooting;

selecting data of the predetermined number or more of images from the generated data of the images according to the number of images generated, and calculating a difference between frame images in the selected data, the difference representing an amount of variation in an object;

25 extracting data of the predetermined number of images from the generated data of

the images at such intervals that the smaller the difference between the frame images, the longer the intervals; and

generating the data of the single composite image by arranging and compositing the extracted data of the images.

- 5 13. A method for generating data of a single composite image by extracting data of a predetermined number of images from data of a plurality of images generated by continuous shooting and by compositing the extracted data of the images, comprising the steps of:

generating data of a plurality of images by continuous shooting;

- 10 extracting the data of the predetermined number of images from the data of the plurality of images at such intervals that an Nth frame image data to be extracted is generated by shooting at a time of an Xth power of (N-1) where X is more than zero when a first frame image data to be extracted is assumed to be generated by shooting at a time zero; and

- 15 generating the data of the single composite image by arranging and compositing the extracted data of the images.

14. A method for generating data of a single composite image by arranging and compositing data of a predetermined number of images generated by continuous shooting, comprising the steps of:

- 20 instructing start and end of the continuous shooting;

generating data of a plurality of images by the continuous shooting according to the instruction;

- extracting the data of the predetermined number of images from the data of the plurality of images in a such manner that the data extracted includes data of images shot at
25 the start and end of the continuous shooting; and

generating the data of the single composite image by arranging and compositing the extracted data of the images.